GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1431
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
COAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Coal India Ltd. (CIL) to allow the latter to retain 136 coal blocks in order to meet the growing future demand of coal in the country as well as to ensure viability of CIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up Coal Regulatory Authority(CRA);

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether trade unions have objected to the proposal of the Government to set up CRA; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA)

(a) & (b): Coal India Limited has sent a proposal for retaining 138 coal blocks with a total of 57.57 billion tonnes resources approximately in order to meet the increasing demand of coal in the country.

(c) & (d): A proposal to set up an independent Coal Regulatory Authority is under consideration of the Government.Various Committees and expert groups in the past had made recommendations in this regard.Recently,Shankar Committee,which was set up to suggest road map for coal sector, has also suggested for setting up of an independent regulator,considering the large number of new and smaller entrants in the coal sector from private and State level public sector units.

(e): No,Sir.

(f): Does not arise in view of the reply to part (e) of the question above.